

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 USIA-06 CU-02 NSC-05 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /050 W
-----130240Z 040686 /70
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6183

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4960

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP PFOR UR US
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET TO SEND DELEGATION TO US

1. SUMMARY: US CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER, ON INSTRUCTIONS
FROM SENATOR CRANSTON, INFORMALLY INVITES
A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION TO VISIT THE U.S. END SUMMARY

2. WILLIAM JACKSON, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO SENATOR
CRANSTON, WHO WAS IN MOSCOW AS USIA-SUPPLIED VOLUNTARY
SPEAKER, CALLED ON STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME SOVIET
APRIL 11. EMBASSY ARRANGED MEETING AT JACKSON'S REQUEST
WHEN HE SAID THAT SENATOR CRANSTON HAD ASKED HIM TO EXTEND
TO THE SUPREME SOVIET AN INVITATION FOR A SUPREME SOVIET
DELEGATION TO VISIT THE US THIS YEAR.

3. JACKSON AND EMBOFF (PRESEL) WERE RECEIVED BY B.P.
TOKMAKOV, HEAD OF THE EXCHANGES DIVISION OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET SECRETARIAT; G.P. MAL'TSEV, HEAD OF THE DIVISION
FOR EXCHANGES WITH ENGLISH SPEAKING PARLIAMENTS; AND
LOMOVTSEV OF MAF USA DIVISION.

4. JACKSON EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY SENATOR
CRANSTON TO DISCUSS A SENATE INVITATION FOR A VISIT
BY A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION. HE SAID THAT CRANSTON
REGRETTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO US-SOVIET PARLIA-
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MENTARY EXCHANGES SINCE 1975. CRANSTON FELT THAT IT WAS
THE US TURN TO INVITE A SOVIET DELEGATION. JACKSON
SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE BEST TIME FOR A SUPREME SOVIET
VISIT WOULD BE IN JUNE /JULY OR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER GIVEN
THE CONSTRATINTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR. HE ADDED
THAT OF COURSE CONGRESS WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECEIVE A
SOVIET DELEGATION AT ANY TIME.

5. TOKMAKOV SAID THAT THE SUPREME SOVIET, IN DRAWING UP ITS PLANS FOR THIS YEAR'S TRIP "HAD NOT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO THE US. HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL US INVITATION AND, THEREFORE, NO DATE COULD BE SET." TOKMAKOV SAID THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ANY US PROPOSAL WITH SHITIKOV AND RUBEN, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO SOVIET LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS. HE ADDED THAT HE KNEW THAT THE SOVIET SIDE SHARED THE AMERICAN INTEREST IN CONTINUING PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES.

6. JACKSON SAID THAT A VISIT IN JUNE OR JULY WOULD PROVIDE A SOVIET DELEGATION THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN SENATORS. TOKMAKOV RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, BUT SAID THAT SOVIET PARLIAMENTARIANS USUALLY TOOK THEIR VACATIONS IN THE SUMMER. LOMOVTSSEV ADDED THAT WASHINGTON IN THE SUMMER WAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE AND TOKMAKOV OBSERVED THAT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OFTEN PLAYED A ROLE IN THE SETTING OF DATES FOR SUPREME SOVIET VISITS.

7. TOKMAKOV COMMENTED THAT IN THE PAST, SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN INVITED AS GUESTS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. HE ASKED WHETHER JACKSON WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSE OR JUST THE SENATE. JACKSON REPLIED THAT CRANSTON HAD SO FAR TALKED ONLY WITH SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BYRD. THEREFORE JACKSON COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR THE

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SENATE, ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS FOR THE SENATE AS A WHOLE, NOT JUST CRANSTON. HOWEVER, HE WAS SURE THAT CRANSTON WOULD MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO SEE TO IT THAT A SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION BE INVITED BY BOTH HOUSES.

8. IT WAS AGREED THAT TOKMAKOV WOULD DISCUSS THE IDEA OF A VISIT WITH THE TWO CHAIRMEN. ONE OF THEM WOULD WRITE DIRECTLY TO SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BYRD. HE AGREED THAT THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE SOVIET DECISION.

9. FYI. JACKSON TOLD US THAT HOUSESPEAKER O'NEILL WAS OPPOSED TO RECEIVING A DELEGATION FROM THE SUPREME SOVIET. THAT WAS WHY CRANSTON HAD DECIDED ON THIS WAY OF BEGINNING THE DISCUSSIONS FOR A VISIT. JACKSON VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD ASK SENATOR CRANSTON TO WORK ON THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IN ORDER THAT AN INVITATION COULD COME FROM BOTH HOUSES. END FYI

10. WE RECEIVED THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE SUPREME SOVIET, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING LEVEL, WAS PLEASED BY THE INVITATION. TOKMAKOV WAS CLEARLY PLEASED AND SAID HE WOULD BEGIN WORK ON DETAILS. HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PREFER A VISIT IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER RATHER THAN IN THE SUMMER.

11. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMING STATUS OF INVITATION WITH SENATE LEADERSHIP. SINCE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT INVITATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING, WE SHOULD CLARIFY SITUATION PROMPTLY IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT ON THIS SCORE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET TO SEND DELEGATION TO US
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, OTRA, UR, US
To: STATE
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